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Again (p. 41) he gives us an entirely new scientific classification of the fishes as follows: First, Mammalia!!!! Second, the genus *Salmo*. Third, all other oviparous fishes.

Again (p. 353), "Spallanzani proved the possibility of impregnating the eggs of *fishes* artificially. He took the eggs of a *frog* and impregnated them with the semen of a male *frog*." Surely all is fish which comes to Mr. Scott's net, Mammals and Batrachians included.

The section on Fish Culture, occupying sixty-two pages, is valuable and interesting, though written apparently more for the purpose of satisfying curiosity than of giving information to the working pisciculturist, who is anxiously looking for some work in the English language (any other will be thankfully received, but English preferred) which will give full and accurate directions for the artificial propagation of fishes. Coste, Haxo, Shaw, Boccius, Francis, Præd, Garlick, Fry, and even Norris, leave much to be desired.

Of the pictorial embellishments a great deal may be said on both sides. The grotesque initial letters are capital, the figures of fishes, taken for the most part from a well-known school-book, are very poor and by no means new; with half a dozen exceptions those in the back part of the book are intended to represent European species, and the others are with one or two exceptions, so uncharacteristic and inaccurate in detail (*e. g.*, a smelt without the adipose dorsal, p. 102, etc.), as to render the name under the cut a very important appendage. The fishing scenes are decidedly below par. On page 391 is a cut which has been going the rounds of the periodical press for the past year, and which we had hoped was, ere this, worn out. It has appeared successively in "Harper's Weekly" and "Monthly," "Scientific American," and "Phrenological Magazine." It represents a poor martyr trout in the hands of an unskilful manipulator, who holds her in such an outre manner, and squeezes her so tightly, that the eggs are forced out at the wrong way. A view of a much more humane and profitable method of handling trout may be seen on the frontispiece of "Francis' Fish Culture."

A statement like that of the capture of *Turbot* on the coast of New Brunswick (p. 432), must be taken with full allowance as to what is intended by the name of *Turbot*.

But with these exceptions, and as far as is promised, the book is the best that has yet been issued. To give instructions for fishing in American waters is what is promised in the title, and this is faithfully carried out, and to use a new and strikingly original phrase, no library of works on Angling can be complete without it.—TRUTTA.

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.\*—"It was with a view," the author states in his preface, "of illustrating the gradations between the forest, prairie, and desert; the varying conditions of temperature and moisture, and

\* The Mississippi Valley: its Physical Geography, including sketches of the Topography, Botany, Climate, Geology, and Mineral Resources; and of the Progress of Development in Population and Material Wealth. By J. W. Foster, LL. D. Illustrated by maps and sections. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 1869. 8vo, pp. 443. \$3.50.

their effects in determining the range of those plants cultivated for food; and, at the same time to trace the character of the fundamental rocks over the whole of this region, pointing out the mode of occurrence of those ores and minerals useful in the arts; and, finally to trace the colonization of this region from its feeble beginnings to its present magnificent proportions, that this work was undertaken." The author does not confine the attention of the reader to the physical features of the Mississippi Valley alone, but carries him away over the Rocky Mountains down the Pacific slope, and up the Valley of the St. Lawrence, and devotes an entire chapter to the *llanos* and pampas of South America, and the steppes and deserts of Asia, Africa, and Australia. We have in this very readable volume the most recent and comprehensive account of the Great Valley of the West that has been published in a popular form. The chapters on the origin of prairies and the geological features of the region drained by the Mississippi are exceedingly interesting, and by their clear presentation of facts, with which the author has familiarized himself while engaged upon Government surveys and in private research, are well calculated to give the general reader a good idea of the formation of our continent, and the origin of the grand features which go very far in determining the physical and moral condition of the nations dwelling on its surface.

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## NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

### BOTANY.

TABLE-MOUNTAIN PINE.—There seems to exist such a diversity of opinion among authors in regard to the geographical range of this tree (*Pinus pungens* Michaux), that we have thought a statement as to its distribution might not be amiss.

Michaux anticipated that it would be the first of our native trees to become extinct, because its limits were so narrow and its habitat so easy of access, and so frequently swept over by fire. Nuttall tells us "its range is so wide that we have no reason to fear its extirpation." Chapman finds it on the "mountains, rarely west of the Blue Ridge, Georgia to North Carolina, and northward." In 1859, Gray limited it to "Blue Ridge, Virginia, west of Charlottesville, and southward." In 1863, he adds, on the authority of Prof. Porter, "the mountains of Pennsylvania, etc." In 1867 the same author gives a new locality near Reading, Pa., which was discovered by Thomas Meehan.

Unless we take the above statement of Prof. Porter in a pretty wide light, we have in none of these limits assigned anything like an indication as to how common the tree is in Pennsylvania. Thus far I have found it ranging from the banks of the Juniata River, in Mission County,